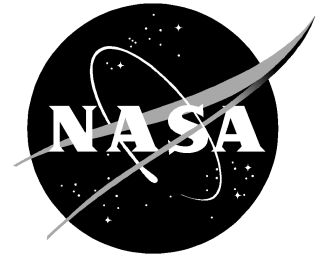


NewsRelease



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TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Cooperative control of soccer playing robots topic of lecture

Advanced communication networks, standards and protocols, paired with vigorous research in robotic control and artificial intelligence, will some day enable robots to aid humans in space exploration, disaster relief, and even national defense.

Dr. Raffaello D'Andrea, science engineer and assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, will speak on "Cooperative Control of Autonomous and Semi-Autonomous Vehicles" at a colloquium at 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 5, at NASA Langley's H.J.E. Reid Conference Center.

Media Briefing: A media briefing will be held at 1:15 p.m. at the H.J.E. Reid Conference Center, 14 Langley Blvd., at NASA Langley Research Center. Members of the media who wish to attend should contact Kimberly W. Land (757) 864-9885.

D'Andrea, led the Cornell RoboCup team, a squad of five fully autonomous soccer playing robots that captured the international F180 RoboCup championship in 1999 (Sweden) and 2000 (Australia). At Cornell, D'Andrea teaches Systems Engineering and Robot Soccer.

He will describe the technical problems associated with coordinating a fleet of autonomous and semi-autonomous vehicles to achieve a collective objective, their approaches for solving those problems, and the other applications for the research. Also, video footage from the competitions will be shown.

D'Andrea received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Toronto in 1991 and his masters and doctorate degrees in electrical engineering from the California Institute of Technology in 1992 and 1997. He is also the recipient of a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Centennial Graduate Fellowship (1991-1996), among several best paper and teaching awards.

The general public is invited to the Sigma Series lecture on the same topic at the Virginia Air and Space Center at 7:30 p.m., that evening.

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